

Food Quality Protection Act Grant: 2004 Requests for Proposals

Small grants for Education, Extension, Demonstration and Implementation Projects for FQPA Transition and Reduced-Risk Practices for Pest Management

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9
Agriculture Initiative - Fiscal Year 2004
Published January, 2004

I. Funding Opportunity Description

The purpose of the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA) Grant Program is to help implement the FQPA and support “transition” efforts by growers to more environmentally-sound pest management practices. These grants provide support to projects for education, extension, demonstration, and implementation of integrated pest management practices and related methods of sustainable agriculture to motivate on-the-ground transition away from pesticides targeted by FQPA. “Sustainable” agriculture refers to farming practices that are environmentally sound, economically viable and socially responsible.

Background

The Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA), passed by Congress in 1996, establishes health-based standards for pesticide residues in raw and processed food. It is intended to protect public health from exposure to pesticides and to create an environment favorable for the development and adoption of lower risk, effective crop protection tools for U.S. agriculture. The EPA, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and numerous agricultural organizations are working on efforts to implement the FQPA. For this effort, EPA established regional programs for FQPA implementation and partnership activities to reduce risks and use of pesticides in agriculture. For more background information on FQPA, visit the EPA website at www.epa.gov/oppfead1/fqpa/

II. Award Information

The EPA Region 9 Agriculture Initiative anticipates having **\$200,000** in 2004 for small grant awards up to \$50,000. The awards will be for projects that incorporate education, extension, demonstration, and implementation of innovative efforts that enable growers to reduce their reliance on pesticides targeted for removal under FQPA and move towards more sustainable pest management practices. Costs incurred prior to the grant award will not be reimbursed.

In addition, EPA is making **\$70,000** available for a pilot project that meets all of the selection criteria on page two, addresses regional air and/or water quality concerns, and leverages USDA funds from one of the conservation program resources such as the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

III. Eligibility Information

State agencies, universities, Cooperative Extension, Tribes, and non-profit organizations (including not-for-profit commodity groups or farmers' groups) are eligible to submit proposals for Food Quality Protection Act grants (CFDA 66.716) under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, Section 20. The projects must be located in EPA Region 9, which includes California, Nevada, Arizona, Hawaii or in the Pacific Trust Islands. Both new and existing projects will be considered. For-profit organizations are not eligible.

Matching funds are not required, however applicants are strongly encouraged to leverage funds from other sources. The award for the selected proposal will be available October 2004.

Funding may be used for **up to two years** from the time that the grant is awarded.

Selection Criteria

Selection criteria for the FQPA Small Grants Program is listed in section A, and criteria for a pilot project is listed in section B. Applicants may apply for only one of the following two grant categories:

A. FQPA demonstration and implementation grants. Projects that promote implementation of integrated pest management practices and related methods of sustainable agriculture will be eligible for awards up to \$50,000. All projects will be evaluated on the following criteria:

Importance of project in relation to FQPA. The proposed project should address critical pest management issues. It should explain the importance of the project and commodity, and explain the relevancy of the project to FQPA implementation. Proposals for projects that use a "systems" approach, incorporating soil, crop, and pest management practices are strongly encouraged but not required.

- *Extent of grower participation and collaborative approaches.* Grower participation and collaborative approaches are key to successful transition and implementation of integrated pest and crop management methods. Therefore, projects should include partnerships and participation of growers as part of the project activities. Cooperation with other partners is also encouraged. Include letters of support from collaborators, indicating their contributions to the project.
- *Clearly stated objectives.* Clearly state and explain the project objectives. Discuss to what degree the project will:
 1. reduce or eliminate the use of organophosphate, carbamate and carcinogenic pesticides
 2. increase farmers' adoption of reduced-risk alternatives and/or ecologically-based integrated pest or crop management methods, in significant commercial land area
- *Potential for achieving adoption and impacts.* Include clear plans for extension, outreach or communication that will lead to effective learning and adoption of new practices. State if the results are likely to be applicable to other regions or cropping systems.
- *Performance measures for objectives.* Include a clear explanation of the measures that will be used to evaluate progress and impacts. Performance measures should be linked to

reduction of pesticide risks and/or implementation of alternative practices, or similar impacts.

- Water quality component. The national guidance for the 2004 FQPA grants program emphasizes water quality this year. Proposals that include a water quality component will receive extra points.

B. Grant leveraging USDA funding for Integrated Pest Management Partnerships.

Region 9 is interested in funding one or two pilot projects that will serve as a model to demonstrate collaboration between EPA and USDA in addressing environmental issues related to pest management. All proposals must meet the above criteria listed under section A, address regional air and/or water quality concerns, and leverage USDA funds from one of the conservation program resources such as the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Awards will be made of up to \$70,000.

PLEASE NOTE: These grants cannot be used for basic research. However, the projects may include a *component for applied on-farm research*, as long as they also have *demonstration, education and/or outreach* activities. Proposals that maximize the use of resources for “on-the-ground” activities will be viewed more favorably than those proposals with high administrative costs.

IV. Proposal Format and Submission

All proposals must contain the following information and adhere to the page limitations listed below. It is recommended that confidential information not be included.

1. Abstract (*maximum one page*). Please include name of project, point of contact and complete contact information, if this is a continuing project, and the amount requested.
2. Body of Proposal and Workplan (*maximum of five pages*). Include a well-conceived workplan that is realistic and appropriate to achieving the identified objectives. This should include a brief background on the main issues or challenges, specific objectives, main activities, and expected outcomes and deliverables. The workplan should include the project area and a timeline.
3. Performance Measures. The workplan should also include performance measures that demonstrate the progress or environmental benefits of the project. Include specific milestones and deliverables.
4. Budget (*maximum one page*). Please submit a detailed budget with your proposal, linking the cost of each objective with the budget. Include information on other funding sources, if any.
5. Qualifications and Support. Include the qualifications and background on the main people or organizations involved as an attachment (*maximum four pages*). Include letters of support from growers or other collaborators, specifying their contribution in project implementation.

Submission of Grant Proposals

Applicants must submit a hard copy of the application along with an electronic version on a floppy disk or CD in Word Perfect or MS Word. Send all proposals to:

James Liebman
Agriculture Initiative
US EPA, Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street, CMD-1
San Francisco, CA 94105

All proposals must be **received by close of business on April 5, 2004**. Proposals received after this date will not be reviewed.

V. Selection and Award Process

Proposals will be reviewed and ranked by a panel of experts based on the selection criteria listed on pages 2 and 3. Decisions on the grants will be made by **May 12, 2004**. Applicants will be notified within the following week. To finalize the grant procedure, award recipients will need to complete financial and administrative grant paperwork. EPA staff will be available for assistance.

Reporting

The selected grant recipients will be asked to complete at least one concise progress report after the grant is awarded, and a final report at the end of the grant period. Progress reports should address the status of all of the objectives and activities in the proposal, and a statement of impacts and expenses. Quarterly Financial Status Reports will also be required.

Disputes

Procedures at 40 CFR 30.63 and 40 CFR 31.70 will apply.

Confidentiality

Applicants must clearly mark information they consider confidential and EPA will make confidentiality decisions in accordance with agency regulations at 40 CFR, Part 2, Subpart B.

Disclaimer

EPA Reserves the right to reject all proposals and to not make any awards.

VI. Agency Contact

If you have questions or need additional information regarding this FQPA Request for Proposal, please call James Liebman, Agriculture Initiative at (415) 947-4241, or email him at liebman.james@epa.gov.